

Tri-County Environmental Health Department

Anaconda/Deer Lodge - Granite - Powell Counties

JAN 16 2013

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Courthouse

800 South Main Street

Anaconda, Montana 59711

Telephone (406) 563-4065

January 16, 2013

Representative Mike Cuffe, Chair
Joint Appropriations Subcommittee
on Natural Resources and Transportation
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, Montana 59620-0400

RE: HB2 - Base Funding for the DEQ Subdivision Section

Dear Representative Cuffe:

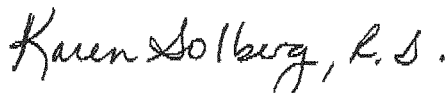
As Registered Sanitarians in Southwestern Montana we would like to support the proposed changes to funding the Subdivision Program at MDEQ. This office depends on the support and expertise of the Subdivision Program staff in reviewing the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act requirements. The Subdivision Program is currently 100% fee funded. During periods of slow subdivision activity as in the past few years, the incoming fee revenue is insufficient to fund the program adequately and expert staff is laid off. Expertise is continually needed in this department to support county programs. We need assurance that reviews can be performed in a timely manner and the basic program administrative needs are met. In order to assure base program needs can be accomplished even during period of reduced subdivision activity, a stable funding source is needed that is independent of subdivision review fees. Having adequate funding also helps to assure there is staff to deal with necessary rule revisions, questions on subdivision applications, legal opinions, etc. A stronger base staff means that when economic conditions improve and more subdivision activity occurs, there will be trained staff to process applications and generally support our requests for services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chad Lanes, RS, Tri-County Sanitarian



Karen Solberg, RS, Tri-County Assistant Sanitarian